

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00965 260919Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-02 SP-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15 /052 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8587
INFO COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC
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UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0965

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PROP, IC
SUBJECT: PRESS ALLEGATIONS RE CIA ACTIVITY IN ICELAND

REF: STATE 14020 DTG 182211Z JAN 78

1. JULY 25 THJODVILJINN, DAILY OF COMMUNIST-LED PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE, CONTAINED ARTICLE ENTITLED "DESPICABLE PERFORMANCE OF CIA HERE IN ICELAND". ARTICLE DRAWN FROM INFORMATION REPORTEDLY CONTAINED IN "CIA INSIDER" WHICH, THJODVILJINN SAYS, IS PUBLISHED IN SWITZERLAND BY "CIA INTERPRESS", GROUP OF SEVEN REPORTERS WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO EXPOSE "CIA MISUSE OF FREEDOM OF PRESS AND INFORMATION".

2. ACCORDING TO THJODVILJINN, CIA INSIDER LISTS BY NATION PUBLICATIONS AND HOST COUNTRY MEDIA FIGURES WHO ARE ON CIA PAYROLL; LISTED UNDER ICELAND ARE TWO NEWSPAPERS--MORGUNBLADID, AUTHORITATIVE VOICE OF INDEPENDENCE PARTY (IP), AND IP-AFFILIATED VISIR--AND THREE INDIVIDUALS, MORGUNBLADID'S TWO EDITORS, STYRMIR GUNNARSSON AND MATTHIAS JOHANNESSEN, AND INDRIDI THORSTEINSSON, WRITER WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO VISIR. WITH TONGUE IN CHEEK, THJODVILJINN FINDS IT AMUSING THAT THESE THREE MEN SHOULD BE INCLUDED AMONG "FINE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD OF JOURNALISM" AND THEN MAKES TWO UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMENTS: THJODVILJINN HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THESE MEN'S ANTI-COMMUNIST VIEWS WERE THEIR PERSONAL CONVICTIONS AND FINDS IT ODD THAT THEY SHOULD BE PAID FOR THESE VIEWS; FURTHER, THJODVILJINN NEVER CONSIDERED ICELAND OF SUCH IMPORTANCE THAT CIA SHOULD WANT TO HAVE TWO NEWSPAPERS AND THREE JOURNALISTS ON ITS PAYROLL.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES ICELANDIC NEWSPAPERS AND INDIVIDUALS
WILL BE ABLE ADEQUATELY TO RESPOND TO ALLEGATIONS PICKED
UP BY THJODVILJINN. IF ASKED COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS,
EMBASSY WILL USE GUIDANCE CONTAINED REFTEL.
BLAKE

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NNN

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